

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 INR-09 LAB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1068

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, LA

SUBJECT: RAL LABOR TROUBLES

REF: VIENTIANE 7461

1. TIAO PANYA SOUVANNA PHOUMA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ROYAL AIR LAOS (RAL), RETURNED TO VIENTIANE LATE LAST MONTH AND TOLD THE ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYEES OF RAL THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE TO THEIR DEMAND THAT THE AMERICAN AND FILIPINO EMPLOYEES OF THE AIRLINE BE DISCHARGED (REFTEL, PARA 6). ACCORDING TO LE PROGRES (THE NEW, EXPANDED VERSION OF THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE TRANDUCTIONS) OF OCTOBER 7, TIAO PANYA STATED, "THE COMPANY STILL NEEDS ALL ITS FOREIGN EMPLOYEES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN CONFORMITY WITH RAL'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN." HE REAFFIRMED HIS DETERMINATION TO USE LAO EMPLOYEES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE BUT ADDED THAT QUALIFIED LAO PREFERRED TO EMIGRATE TO SINGAPORE OR EUROPE RATHER THAN TO STAY IN LAOS.

2. LE PROGRES ALSO REPORTS THAT BOUNLEUANG VONGSOUTHY, PRESIDENT OF THE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, AFTER RECEIVING TIAO PANYA'S REJECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S DEMANDS, SAID THAT HE WOULD RESIGN HIS UNION OFFICE.

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3. THE NEWSPAPER SAY KANG OF OCTOBER 7 REPORTS THAT THE LAO FEDERATION OF LABOR (LFL) ISSUED A STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 30 SUPPORTING THE RAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION'S DEMANDS THAT RAL'S AMERICAN AND FILIPINO EMPLOYEES BE DISMISSED. THE LFL STATEMENT ADDED THAT, IF RAL'S LAO EMPLOYEES LACK SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, THE COMPANY SHOULD HIRE OTHER FOREIGNERS INSTEAD OF AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS. THE DOCUMENT CONTINUED THAT FRANCE AND AMERICAN HAD COLONIZED LAOS FOR NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS, FRANCE DIRECTLY AND AMERICA BY USING ITS DOLLARS TO COERCE LAO OFFICIALS. THE DETERIORATION OF THE KIP, OF LAO CULTURE, AND OF LAO PUBLIC LIFE WAS CAUSED BY DOLLARS.

4. PAN B. CHANTHAPANYA, RAL'S DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, TOLD AN EMBOFF ON OCTOBER 7 THAT HE THOUGHT TIAO PANYA'S REMARKS ON THE NECESSITY OF RETAINING FOREIGN EMPLOYEES AND HIS TALKS WITH EMPLOYEES HAD CALMED THE SITUATION AND THAT THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF A STRIKE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
WHITEHOUSE

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